

HADDON CHAMBERS' NEW PLAY

"PASSERSBY" ACTED AT THE CRITERION THEATRE.

A Comedy of London Life and the Story of a deserted Girl—Richard Bennett Plays the Leading Role—The Other Actors in the Cast That Presented It.

The proceedings at the Criterion Theatre last night seemed before the curtain rose the most important that have been observed during this short theatrical season. The expectant attitude of the audience plainly indicated that something more than the theatres have so far offered was looked for at least hoped for.

One ground for this feeling was the fact that the author of "Passersby," as the new play is called, is Haddon Chambers, who with works as widely different in style as "Captain Swift" and "The Tyranny of Tears" has made a reputation. Then report from London declared the drama to be one of the best products of the theatrical year. But it was the unusual theme of this comedy that had roused public curiosity.

It's no new thing in the drama for a hero or a heroine to walk into the street and bring back his or her destiny. That expedient is as old as "Camilla's Husband," in which the heroine marries the first man she meets. But it is less usual to see a rather bored young man open his door at night to a woman who turns out to be his discarded sweetheart and the mother of his child. Yet that is the beginning of the drama in "Passersby" and its predominating theme to the end.

The wealthy young Londoner has invited other strangers to his apartments overlooking Piccadilly before the girl comes into the warmth and light of these comfortable quarters. The first of these is a cabman whom the butler has brought in from the fog. Then comes a wife from the streets and finally the young woman who has fallen on the doorstep. When their romance had been brought to a close six years before by an officious stepfather all trace of the girl had been lost and it is with surprise he learns that she and her child are living in London. The man is engaged and she pretends to be. Once when she is found in his house by the same stepfather his affianced is sent from the room. But she learns that this girl had once stood in her place and she knows of the child. So she tells her affianced that he is not the man for her and when the play has ended it is obvious that the two separated lovers will be united again.

Mr. Chambers is too resourceful a playwright to keep his story so bare as this episode indicates and he has decorated it with various exhibitions of striking character. The wait who is installed in the young man's establishment only to rebel under the butler's severity, the cabby with the philosophy and sociology of his class, the observant butler and his sympathy with the young man's misadventure, these are strongly marked studies of character, British through and through, but none the less human and recognizable.

It was indeed the humanity of Mr. Chambers' play that made the event of the evening correspond so fully to the highest expectations of the audience. It was not only in his study of the tramp Burns and the philosophic cabman that there was real blood and heart. The youthful autocrat, after his fantasies of the first act, is altogether a man. There was pathos in his paternal pride because the author had made him real, and the deserted mother made her real appeal to the sympathies of the audience because she was human too in spite of her affection for the lover she had found again, human enough to pretend to another man and to refuse to bring her child to his father until he implied that possibly she feared to because the youngster was ugly.

A young man in life in the youthful romance when, learning that her betrothed was the father of the strange woman's child, she remained to comfort the mother in her sorrow at the child's loss rather than follow the order of the odious stepfather and leave her in scorn. The character of the unregenerate tramp, born to the sullen resignation of the idler, is an admirable study, although in his reform he grew tiresome. This fact, combined with the ineffective-ness of the love scene between the two who were again into one another's society, made the greater part of the third act almost unbearably tedious. But the swift revelation of the relation between her betrothed and the governess, as well as the fact that they have a child, for the young man's betrothed act such a thrilling close that the dullness of the earlier moments was almost forgiven. Yet by the time he disappeared the audience was grateful to be rid of the man who had been so tedious.

No play of the year is comparable in its manliness, literary quality and observation of life to "Passersby." It is a drama that cannot fail to give the highest degree of popular success if there remains in these frenzied days of the theatre a taste for what aims at such a high standard. It is a play that might be added for the sake of the spectacle to the earlier moments was almost forgiven. Yet by the time he disappeared the audience was grateful to be rid of the man who had been so tedious.

Charles Frohman has produced the play with the best resources of the American theatre available to him. The production denoted with wonderful fidelity the dogged pessimism and indifference of the weak minded vagrant who valued his life on watching a charming girl among his kind more highly than anything else that philanthropy could undertake on his behalf. A. G. Andrews provided a faithful picture of the cabman with his own ideas on social questions, and Julian Royce, as the butler, was a valuable note in the background of the picture.

Richard Bennett is a manly, handsome young actor with such engaging suggestion of uprightness that it is unfortunate these cannot atone for his technical inability to deal with the role of the hero. But it presented problems for which he is not yet ripe, although his acting was potent in the elements of personal charm and buoyant youthfulness. Louise Rutherford acted with gentleness and pathos as the deserted mother and a charming account of her kind more highly than anything else that philanthropy could undertake on his behalf. A. G. Andrews provided a faithful picture of the cabman with his own ideas on social questions, and Julian Royce, as the butler, was a valuable note in the background of the picture.

Squadron A. Club Incorporated. ALBANY, Sept. 14.—The Squadron A Club has been incorporated to maintain a clubhouse for the use of active and ex-active members of Squadron A and Troop A of the National Guard. The officers and directors are Herbert Barry, Alfred W. Boorman, William C. Cammann, Howard S. Gowerthwait, George E. Fahy, Henry W. Goodwin, Joseph Howard, Hunt, Reuben Martin, Edith M. Frank, E. G. Gutteridge, Stowe Phelps, Latham G. Reed, John Sloane, Henry C. Smith, Lorillard Sponner, and William B. Wright.

"WHEN SWEET SIXTEEN."

A Song Play With Victor Herbert's Music Produced at Daly's.

"When Sweet Sixteen," which had its first New York production at Daly's Theatre last night, is described by the programme as a "song play," and it deserves the title, for whatever success it attains will be due entirely to the half dozen pleasant melodies which Victor Herbert has written for it.

George V. Hobart has written the book, but just what it is all about no one in the audience could quite understand. Somewhere there is a wealthy man with a wife who has social aspirations and a daughter who is engaged to a man also wealthy. The fiancé drags into the plot a young and blonde secretary who is engaged in collecting material for a book about the habits of the newly rich. There is also a Scotch laird who says "Hoot, hoot," and a man-cruiser, who cleans the fingernails of guests whom she had never seen in the living room of the rich man's country home. A French dialect is added by a *Monseigneur* *Beaucarne*, who is engaged in teaching the newly rich how to behave.

Add to this a negro valet who shoots craps with the guests and an English butler who drops his hat, and you have all the riot that was visible.

Mr. Herbert, who led the orchestra last night, has written four or five numbers which ought to be and undoubtedly will be popular. "Laughing" brought down the curtain after the first act, and "Honey Love," a coon song, opened it for the second.

William Norris, whose skill as a comedian has been seen to much better advantage, was the rich and stung fiancé, while Roy Purvis was the blonde secretary who wins his employer's fiancé away from his old sweetheart.

With all apologies to Mr. Herbert's songs, nothing won heartier applause than the melody from his old opera which was introduced in the second act.

SAVE BABIES BY PASTEURIZING.

Nathan Straus Gives Results of Twenty Years of Experimentation.

BERLIN, Sept. 14.—Nathan Straus of New York, founder of milk depots for infants, addressed to-day the third international congress for the protection of infants on "Twenty Years Practical Experience in Modifying and Pasteurizing Milk for Infant Feeding." Mr. Straus is a delegate from the United States Government to this congress. The best proof of the success of his work in America, Mr. Straus said, "is the recognition after twenty years by America's greatest municipality of the fact that the maintenance of such pasteurized milk depots is a proper and necessary municipal function. Enlightened public policy has dictated that the babies should be saved from needless sickness and death."

He spoke also of his work in Europe. He said that among babies that were supplied with milk from the depot which the Women's National Health Association in Dublin had operated since 1888 the mortality had been only fifty-five a thousand, whereas the death rate among the rest of the babies of Dublin had been three times as great. In Karlsruhe, where a depot is operated under the patronage of the Kaiser, the death rate in 1909 was 17 per cent, but among babies fed on pasteurized milk the rate was 6.3 per cent. In Stockholm, in the district of Heideberg, the efficacy of the milk depot also had been demonstrated.

Mr. Straus spoke of the "enthusiastic encouragement" which "two noble women, the Dowager Grand Duchess of Baden and the Countess of Aberdeen," had given him and he asked the congress for their help.

"My most recent demonstration of the value of pasteurization," Mr. Straus went on, "has been in Washington, where I established a laboratory in 1910 with six sub-stations. I quote these significant figures:

Of the 508 babies that were supplied with the milk 57 per cent, or 289, were ill when they were brought to the stations.

Of the total 51, or 10 per cent, died.

Of the 318 babies that were fed upon the milk 10 per cent, or 31, died.

Of the 192 still on the milk at the end of six months all were thriving.

None of the babies who were lost died from intestinal disorders or from infectious diseases.

The period of these observations included the intensely hot summer months, which are particularly severe in Washington.

Summing up his experience of twenty years, Mr. Straus said that the death rate of the excessive infantile mortality has been immediately checked wherever I have supplied pasteurized modified milk, and the rate has been cut down at least to the average for the preceding five years."

SUES GERKEN FOR SAVINGS.

Former Servant Charges That He Invested Her \$1,000 Improperly.

A suit brought against John Gerken, president of the Hudson Trust Company, by Mrs. Margaret Roche, formerly in his employ as a servant, was before Supreme Court Justice Pendleton yesterday on an application by Gerken to dismiss the suit.

The plaintiff, a widow, asks for \$1,000 and interest from October, 1902, saying that at that time she had the money in a savings bank. She says she entrusted Mr. Gerken with the money to deposit it for her in the United National Bank, of which he was then president, but instead of depositing the money he invested it in stock of the Waupun Café Company, which was a failure, and he gave her the stock, but the stock later became worthless.

Counsel for Mrs. Roche said that he would try the case as soon as possible and that at present the plaintiff was testifying and is living in a hut and has been supporting herself and a consumptive son by doing washing. The lawyer said that Mrs. Roche's husband was employed by him as a coachman, while Mrs. Roche was also employed in the household.

Mrs. Gerken is a noted horsewoman and has been a member of the Madison Square Garden horse shows.

OBITUARY.

Thomas M. King, once vice-president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, died on Wednesday at his home in Irvington-on-Hudson, N. Y., of pneumonia. He was survived by a sister, two sons and four daughters. Mr. King was born at Freeport, N. Y., in 1859. He was a clerk for the Allegheny Valley Railroad in 1880. At the beginning of the civil war he joined the Army and served in the military railroad corps. After the term of his service expired he was promoted to superintendent of the River division of the Allegheny Valley Railroad. This position he held until 1881. He next became a general superintendent of the Pittsburgh division of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and became second vice-president in 1885, holding that office for eleven years.

"A MAN OF HONOR" AT WEBER'S

EDMUND BREESE IN A GOOD BUT STIFF NEW PLAY.

The First Work Here of Isaac Landman Hardly to Be Judged by First Night. Acting—The Dilemma One of Political Ambition and the Family Name.

The season at Weber's Theatre was opened last night with "A Man of Honor," a play which held considerable promise of interest not only as the vehicle of Edmund Brees's first appearance as a Weber star but also as being the first play of a new dramatist, Rabbi Isaac Landman of Philadelphia. Both the play and the acting of it entirely justified the preliminary interest, though both fell somewhat short of anticipations.

The possibilities of neither the play nor its interpretation were realized in the first production. The entire cast was in a state of abject nervousness that made them wholly unable to hold themselves and their situations, while the lines of the play, becoming painfully trite in emotional passages, added to the general effect of hysteria. When the excitement of the opening night is past and when the actors tone themselves and their parts down several degrees, and especially when some friendly blue pencil has cast out some of the lines that do not quite escape bathos, "A Man of Honor" will be a pretty good play.

The idea of the play is good, but as given last night it lacked conciseness in working out. Its points were not well defined and it lacked clearness of outline. This was especially true in the first act, when the author devoted the entire time, with the exception of the last two minutes before the curtain fell, to presenting background of highly unpractical politics against which his play was to lean.

It was all clear enough after awhile, but during that entire first act it was almost impossible to get a clear outline of what was intended, of just who wanted what and how he was setting about to get it. And during the whole time, until—as has been said—the last two minutes, there was scarcely a moment of real human appeal.

The action of the play occurs in Montana, where Judge Kingsley is about to give a decision in a suit brought against a great mining corporation. The Judge is intensely ambitious politically but holds his judicial honor above political considerations. So engrossed, indeed, has he been in his career that he has had no time for his motherless son and daughter.

The daughter becomes engaged to the man who has brought the suit against the mining company, and the son embroils from the same prolific source of trouble, but the father is too occupied with a campaign committee to receive the confidence of either of them. Only when the mining company, represented by a most amazing attorney, attempts to bring from him a decision favorable to its interest by threatening to prosecute the son for his part in the case, does he realize that the honor of his family is sometimes higher than the honor of a political career.

Unmoved by the fear of scandal and by the tremendous influences brought to bear upon him, the Judge stands firm to expiate his fault, while he himself puts his professional honor above all personal considerations. Of course in the end the boy does not go to prison and the daughter is satisfactorily straightened out, but the way it is done is rather more interesting than the mere statement would have it.

Mr. Brees shared the general nervousness of the evening. In the first act he was prematurely stiff and in the second he overacted the stilted lines along with the others, but in the third act he got hold of himself and the play and acted with dignity and conviction.

Hans Robert as Richard, the weak embezzler, played a perfectly impersonated part that must have made him shudder when he read it for the first time. It had no chance to win sympathy in any particular, while its physical requirements were enough to make him shudder. For five minutes at a stretch he was obliged to stand facing the audience, his hands hanging at his sides and his face convulsed with weeping. He was entitled to credit for his endurance.

Ben Johnson of all the men kept his part of the Judge's brother in a moderate key and played with a refreshing dignity and restraint. Edward H. Robins as a young attorney also played with a degree of calmness that was almost overdone in his lovingkindness scenes, which came close to woodenness. The attorney for the mining company was played by Ralph Delmore, whose physique was as startling as his part was ungrateful. He belongs to the new school of stage villains, who play a part of a villainous part that must have made him shudder when he read it for the first time.

There were only two women in the cast. Miss Muriel Starr, who played the Judge's daughter, was a very good one, and Miss Fay Wallace, who was her cousin and who was pretty enough almost to be forgiven her giggles.

FEES CUT \$11,000.

Referee in a New Jersey Bankruptcy Case Reduces Allowances.

Referee in Bankruptcy Edwin G. Adams of Newark yesterday ordered reductions aggregating about \$11,000 from the allowances asked for by State Senator Harry V. Osborne and State Senator Johnston Cornish, both of New Jersey, as counsel and trustees respectively in the American Vacuum Cleaner Company bankruptcy case. This includes a reduction of \$5,000 by way of salary for the referee, who was employed to assist in the management of the concern at \$100 a week.

Senator Cornish filed claims for \$7,500 in addition to \$1,500 he had already received and Senator Osborne asked for \$7,500. In his decision the referee said that under an order of the court Mr. Cornish could receive the business of the company for eight months for extra compensation over and above the statutory fees allowed for the performance of the ordinary duties of a trustee. He fixed the allowance for the extra service at \$1,200, making Mr. Cornish's total allowance \$2,400. The statutory fees being computed at \$1,200.

The referee fixed Mr. Osborne's services at \$3,500.

The Seagoers.

The Hamburg-American liner Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, which sailed yesterday from Hamburg for this port, has all her cabins filled. Some of the voyagers were: Townsend Braden, C. T. Crocker, Judge Marx Warley Plutkin, Dr. George E. de Schweinitz, Dr. Phil Hans Hirsch, Prof. F. Hirth, Prof. Joseph Marschall, Richard Amberg, Mrs. Richard Reid Rogers, Prof. George H. Brown, Harry S. Hudekoper, Mrs. Clarence Ransom Edwards, wife of Brig. Gen. Edwards, and William and Emil L. Boas, resident director of the Hamburg-American Line.

Mrs. Woods Withdraws Order of Arrest.

Mrs. A. H. Woods, wife of the theatrical manager, withdrew yesterday the order she obtained from City Court Justice Fineline for the arrest of Count Oduvaldo Augusto de Sousa Oliveira Queiroz, son of a Brazilian official, in a suit she had brought for \$5,000 damages for slander. In withdrawing the order of arrest, Judge Fineline said that she understood that Queiroz has left the jurisdiction of the court and that it will be impossible to apprehend him.

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TRUTH ABOUT HIS HAY FEVER

LAWYER BILLY PATTERSON SAID HE HAD IT.

But Others Say That He Confessed to Not Having It Until Off Fisher's Island—Anyway He's Lost Again Right After Having Been Found on an Island

Lawyer Billy Patterson of 45 Cedar street, who has been lost, is found again. Still later Lawyer Billy, who boasts of having more hay fever than anybody else in the world, more even than Strawder Batt of New York and the University of Jena or than President Otto Schultz of the German Hay Fever Association, still later comes the news that the same Billy Patterson, who has been lost and is found again, is lost.

And incidentally if you don't think there is anybody in the entire world who has never looked up some of the pamphlets sent broadcast at the opening of the hay fever season each year by the local branch of hay fever fairs, the United States Hay Fever Association, you'll find that Strawder Batt stands high in the hay fever set, so high and so far gone that he is an officer of our own hay fever club.

But to return to Billy. This lawyer and his hay fever and things should be returned to publicly because his hay fever interferes with far more persons than himself. Billy (let's be less familiar and call him Will) is a member of the firm of Wilder, Fwen & Patterson when he hasn't hay fever. Nobody in the suite of offices in Cedar street can go on a vacation or even think about arranging a vacation until Billy Patterson gets his hay fever, and there are about one dozen persons in the suite, not counting the bosses.

Old Doc Nobles, manager of the Hotel Breslin, discovered a cold storage cure, you remember, for hay fever and the cure looked out with a lot of pictures of an actress patient into all the newspapers. The morning the news of the cure was printed Will Patterson disappeared. He left a note saying that hay fever had once again got him and that he would remain away until cured. And now listen to this! Now it comes out that THE SUN was right—Will did run away because he had read the story of old Doc Nobles' hay fever cure.

ONLY \$35 FOR FIVE HATS.

Mrs. Ferguson, Formerly Emily Carstairs, Got Another Altered in the Bargain.

STAMFORD, Conn., Sept. 14.—Suit has been brought in the city courts here against Walton Ferguson, Jr., by Louise & Co. of New York to recover \$35 for five hats and alterations to another hat.

The most expensive hat of the lot cost \$22, a black one with roses. A blue hat cost \$10, a blue sailor \$5, a red hat \$5 and a red straw \$5.

The hats were purchased between June 4 and September 12, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson were living apart at the time. Mrs. Ferguson having residence at the Hotel Webster in New York. Mr. Ferguson later brought suit for divorce.

In his answer to the suit Ferguson says the goods were not intended for his benefit or use, that he knew nothing about any agreement to pay for them and that he had no knowledge of the purchase. Mrs. Ferguson was Miss Emily Carstairs of Philadelphia, a member of a wealthy family.

From further advice it has been learned that Jimmy Calder, noted among Campobello Island fishermen and captain of the yacht belonging to Major Archer Shea, was the very first to find Will Patterson, whom all Cedar street is seeking. Cap'n Jimmy has asthma, and so a bout of sympathy sprung up between Will and Jimmy. Will had been sitting alone on the beach for days when Jimmy happened upon him.

"Ah, you have hay fever," Will said to Jimmy.

"Nope—asthma," wheezed Jimmy. "They argued it out, but Jimmy insisted that the best he has is asthma. Will believed that Jimmy modestly was lying. And so they settled down back of Will's rock on the beach and discussed their diseases. Will said positive that Jimmy had hay fever.

WHITE RAT LABEL SUIT.

Secretary of Vaudeville Organization Asks Damages From "Variety."

Harry Mountford, international secretary of the White Rats Actors Union, filed suit in the Supreme Court yesterday to recover \$125,000 damages from the Vaudeville Managers Protective Association and its officers, including Percy G. Williams, William Hammerstein, Marcus Loew and E. F. Albee, for an alleged libelous and scandalous article published in *Variety*, a vaudeville weekly published by Simon Silverman, who is also made a defendant.

The complainant says that there are several thousands of men and women in the organization of which he is secretary and he has the direct management of their interests. In an article which the defendants caused to be published, Mountford says, it was made to appear that he has been guilty of conveying money belonging to the union and that with that money he has purchased a palatial home on Long Island which he holds in the name of his wife. He was also charged with being a fraud and a faker, and it was alleged that he and his wife, who appears on the stage as Miss Walsh, had been guilty of blackmail and fraud in obtaining theatrical engagements for him.

The article also charged that Mountford padded his expense account and stated that after he had proved to be an absolute failure as a vaudeville performer he became a strike agitator. The article asked whether Mountford had ever made any accounting to the union of \$20,000 he spent at Albany in two years in trying to have the employment agency law amended in favor of vaudeville actors, in which he was unsuccessful.

Mountford states that all these allegations are untrue and that while he has chased a small house on Long Island he did it with his savings. He has been faithful to his duties as international secretary of the union, he says, and for this reason the managers are seeking to injure him.

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Their friendship nearly was broken, so advice from Campobello Island say, when Will accepted an invitation to speak in favor of reciprocity at a Canadian political rally in the village. Jimmy actually hates reciprocity. Why? Campobello is British; Eastport is but a mile across the strait. Look up the history of the Long Embargo if you don't understand. No, no, no—Jimmy's friends are not smugglers.

After argument Will Patterson tore up his speech. This was being settled the talk drifted back to hay fever and Will finally admitted under pressure that he hadn't had any real hay fever at all this season. This from the one time

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THE CONFLICT

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THE BELASCO REOPENS.

"The Concert" Staged Again for a Short While.

David Belasco brought "The Concert" back to the Belasco Theatre last night and Herman Bahr's comedy will be seen there for a few weeks. Leo Dietrichstein, who made the adaptation, will appear as the adored Army and Janet Beecher as his sympathetic wife. The company which presented the comedy so long in New York last winter remains practically as it was and the performance has lost none of its charm.

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INSTRUCTION.

For Boys and Young Men.

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